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25X1

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CONTENTS

25X1

Cambodia: Sihanouk appeals to international opinion. (Page 3)

25X1

South Korea: Legislature deadlock (Page 5)

Sudan: Disagreement within government (Page 5)

25X1

25X1

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Cambodia: Chief of State Sihanouk, fearful that allied forces will carry the war into Cambodian territory, apparently intends a major appeal to international opinion.

Sihanouk told a meeting of the National Congress in Phnom Penh yesterday that Cambodia would lodge a protest against US activities in Indochina with the UN Security Council and would ask that he be allowed to address a special session of the UN General Assembly. Sihanouk indicated that these moves would be taken only in the event that strikes were actually made across the Cambodian border.

He also announced that he had requested the Soviet Union to intervene with the US on Cambodia's behalf. On 10 December, Tass had warned of unspecified consequences if the Vietnam war is expanded into Laotian or Cambodian territory.

Sihanouk, apparently to underline the gravity of the situation, stated that Cambodia would call for Communist "volunteers" if its forces prove unable to counter allied attacks. It is not clear whether he has any intention of following through on this threat but in the past he has expressed skepticism that Cambodia could rely on outside help. He has warned, however, that Cambodian forces would not only resist allied cross-border operations but that such operations would force Cambodia "into the arms" of the Vietnamese Communists.

Phnom Penh's flat rejection of a recent US note on the border problem and its claim that International Control Commission investigations back up its assertion that there are no Vietnamese Communist bases on Cambodian territory, suggest that Sihanouk is unlikely to make a significant gesture to meet the US halfway.

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25X1

NOTES

*South Korea: The National Assembly broke a deadlock during the final hours remaining for passage of the 1968 budget. On 19 December, in protest over the government's failure to carry out agreements on dealing with election irregularities, opposition legislators seized the rostrum and blocked all business. Government supporters, abandoning parliamentary procedures, pushed through the budget today.

25X1

Sudan: The Mahjoub government has backed down from its decision to grant Egypt training facilities at an air base near Khartoum. The agreement was concluded during Mahjoub's visit to Cairo for the Arab foreign ministers' conference in early December. It was opposed, however, by senior Sudanese military officers, apparently supported by opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi. The issue could spark a direct confrontation in the Constituent Assembly between Sadiq's supporters, possibly including the army, and the government.

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